

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2839

INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 045

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

S E C R E T SANAA 2008

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECT TEXT GARBLES AND OMISSIONS)

A.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XX

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION: YARG PROTESTS

POSSIBLE US ARMS DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL.

1. FOLLOWING PROLONGED EMERGENCY MEETING OF YARG
CABINET, ACTING FONMIN ASNAG ASKED TO SEE ME OCTOBER 14.

2. ASNAG STATED YARG RECEIVING REPORTS THAT USG INTENDING
SEND AMMUNITION AND REPLACEMENT ARMS TO ISRAEL. AS
FRIEND OF USG, YARG WISHED POINT OUT THAT SUCH US DELI-
VERIES WOULD AGGRAVATE SITUATION IN AREA, WOULD IMME-
DIATELY CREATE TENSION BETWEEN ARAB STATES AND US BY
DEMONSTRATING PARTISANSHIP FOR ISRAEL, AND WOULD REDUCE
INFLUENCE OF USG TO WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY FOR LASTING PEACE
FOLLOWING HOSTILITIES. ASNAG SAID YARG REQUESTING EMBASSY
CONVEY THIS "PROTEST" TO USG.

3. COMMENTING, ASNAG SAID ARABS ACCEPT FACT OF US

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COMMITMENT PROTECT ISRAEL WITHIN PRE-1967 LINES.

UNTIL NOW, ARABS' UNDERSTANDING OF US POSITION HAD BEEN THAT THIS PROTECTION DID NOT EXTEND TO ISRAELI POSITION IN ARAB LANDS CONQUERED IN 1967. IF USG IN PRESENT SITUATION WERE TO SHIP ARMS TO ISRAEL THIS WOULD APPEAR CONSTITUTE REDEFINITION OF USG POSITION AS UNDERSTOOD, I.E. TO EXTEND US PROTECTION COMMITMENT TO COVER ISRAELI POSITION IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. SUCH EXTENSION WOULD BE CONSTRUED AS HOSTILE ACT ON USG'S PART. EXTENSION OF USG COMMITMENT COULD ALSO BE READ INTO APPARENT USG POSITION OF INSISTING THAT CEASEFIRE BE LINKED TO RESTORATION OF TERRITORIAL STATUS QUO ANTE.

4. ASNAG SAID IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF USG IN SOME APPROPRIATE PUBLIC STATEMENT COULD MAKE CLEAR THAT USG'S COMMITMENT DEFEND ISRAEL DOES NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

5. REPLYING, I SAID THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING CONFIRMED RE ALLEGATIONS OF IMPENDING USG ARMS DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL; USG HAS REFRAINED FROM COMMENT. SPEAKING PERSONALLY HOWEVER, I THOUGHT ARABS SHOULD NOT BE OVERLY SURPRISED IF USG WERE COMPELLED MAKE UP ISRAEL'S LOSSES IN AMMUNITION AND SOME OTHER ITEMS SINCE RUSSIANS HAD BEEN IN THIS FOR SEVERAL DAYS WITH EXTENSIVE AIRLIFTS TO SYRIA, EGYPT AND IRAQ. ONE KEY USG OBJECTIVE, AS I UNDERSTOOD IT, WAS TO WARN USSR AGAINST RESUPPLY OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT SUCH AS AIRCRAFT AND TANKS WHICH COULD LEAD TO FURTHER VERY DANGEROUS ESCALATION. OUR PRIMARY CONCERN WAS TO GET BACK TO A SITUATION IN WHICH REALISTIC NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS RESOLUTION 242 WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

6. ASNAG WOULD NOT LET THIS REST, SAYING EGYPT AND SYRIA HAD FELT COMPELLED TO ACT MILITARILY ONLY AFTER SIX YEARS OF STALEMATE DURING WHICH THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS IN GETTING ISRAEL OUT OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 242. USG SUPPORT DURING THIS PERIOD HAD ENABLED ISRAEL TO BECOME STEADILY MORE INTRANSIGENT WHILE AT SAME TIME USG DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE PUT ITS INFLUENCE BEHIND NEGOTIATIONS UNDER 242, WITNESS "QUIET SCUTTLING" OF JARRING MISSION AND SUBSEQUENTLY

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OF "ROGERS PLAN". I REPLIED USG HAD PERSERVERED IN EFFORTS GET NEGOTIATIONS GOING BUT BOTH ARABS AND ISRAELIS HAD RESISTED.

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TAGS: XX
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